

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 071350Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5605

S E C R E T CAIRO 1117

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP APER PFOR

SUBJECT: CAIRO COMPLEMENT

REF: STATE 43039

1. AM MINDFUL OF THE HEAVY PERSONNEL BURDEN WHICH RE-
ESTABLISHMENT OF CAIRO EMBASSY AND ALEXANDRIA OFFICE
PLACES ON DEPT AND DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR
POSITIVE INTEREST. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT PERSONNEL
REQUESTED IN CAIRO 1016 HAS BEEN CAREFULLY THOUGHT
THROUGH NOT JUST ONCE, BUT MANY TIMES, THESE LAST TWO
MONTHS. HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO KEEP STATE NUMBERS GENERALLY
CONSISTENT WITH NEA CONTINGENCY PLAN DRAWN UP FEW YEARS
AGO FOR CAIRO EMBASSY. IN THIS CONTEXT, I HAVE CAREFULLY
STUDIED YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR PROPOSAL AND SUBMIT MY
OBSERVATIONS BELOW:

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL HAVING TO DO WITH POSITION 9
(ECONOMIC OFFICER--PL 480) AND 11 (SCIENCE RESEARCH
PROJECT OFFICER), I APPRECIATE POINTS YOU MAKE. MY PROBLEM
IS THAT I NEED A QUALIFIED AMERICAN IN TECHNICAL
AND SCIENTIFIC MATTERS IF I AM TO DISCHARGE ADEQUATELY
MY RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXAMINING AND MONITORING THE
PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECTS CON-
DUCTED BY SMITHSONIAN, NSF, EPA, ETC., IN THIS COUNTRY.

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MUCH OF THIS RESEARCH IS CONTRACTED TO EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS,

TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS, AND I WOULD NOT FEEL CONFIDENT THAT A FSL, EVEN IF QUALIFIED IN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MATTERS, WOULD GIVE ME THE KIND OF OBJECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I NEED. A POLITICAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE THE BACKGROUND FOR SUCH A SPECIALIZED JOB. MY OWN PREFERENCE, THEREFORE, WOULD BE COMBINING POSITIONS 9 (ECONOMIC OFFICER --PL-480) AND 12 (ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER), THEREBY ELIMINATING ONE POSITION.

3. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL, I AM SENDING SEPTTEL ON SUBJECT.

4. RE POSSIBLE NURSE, THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME MIS-UNDERSTANDING ON MEDICAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE LOCALLY. THERE ARE NO RPT NO ACCEPTABLE HOSPITAL FACILITIES IN CAIRO. BOTH RMO AND OUR NAMRO DOCTOR HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE THIS POINT. PATIENTS ARE REGULARLY REFERRED TO THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT, NOT LOCALLY. NOR DO OUR DOCTORS HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL. WE DO INDEED HAVE A NAMRU DOCTOR, WHO HOLDS SICK CALL ONCE A WEEK. HE WILL OF COURSE TREAT EMERGENCIES. I AM ALSO MINDFUL THAT (A) WITH ANTICIPATED STAFF EXPANSION, REQUIREMENT FOR SIMPLE MEDICAL SERVICES INCREASES, AND (B) NAMRU DOCTOR HAS A FULL TIME JOB OF HIS OWN AND SERVICING US IS GRATUITOUS, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY. AVAILABILITY HEALTH CARE IS A MAJOR MORALE FACTOR. MY RECOMMENDATION FOR A NURSE WAS IN FACT FULLY ENDORSED BY PRESENT NAMRU DOCTOR. HOWEVER, I LEAVE IT TO THE DEPT WHETHER OR NOT TO ASSIGN A NURSE.

5. RE RSO, I HAVE NOW ALSO RECEIVED ANOTHER TELEGRAM FROM MARVIN GENTILE ABOUT DESIRABILITY HAVING ONE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR AND GENTILE'S CONCERN, BUT REMAIN A SKEPTIC ON THIS ONE. HAVE NO WISH TO EXPOSE MY STAFF OR MYSELF TO SECURITY DANGERS. IF I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT THAT THE PRESENCE OF AN RSO WOULD MINIMIZE THIS, I WOULD HAVE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY. IN MY JUDGMENT, AND I AM SPEAKING VERY FRANKLY, AN RSO HERE IS A BEST COSMETIC SECURITY. HE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT MY TOTALLY VULNERABLE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE, THE CHOKE POINTS IN CAIRO TRAFFIC

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PATTERN WHICH I MUST FACE DAILY, OR THE HIGH RISES WHICH SURROUND OUR COMPOUND AND MAKE THE CHANCERY VULNERABLE. WITHOUT A FULL TIME, YEAR 'ROUND JOB OF HIS OWN, HE WILL END UP SIMPLY MAKING WORK FOR ALREADY OVERBURDENED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. I MAY BE WRONG, BUT I DON'T THINK SO. ANYWAY, HAVING SAID THE ABOVE, I WILL NOT OBJECT IF RSO IS SENT PROVIDED THAT SUCH ASSIGNMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT DEPRIVE ME OF SOME OTHER POSITION WHICH I REALLY NEED.

I WILL ALSO SO INDICATE TO GENTILE IN REPLY TO HIS LATEST MESSAGE.

6. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A SECRETARY FUNDED THROUGH TERRORISM PACKAGE, BUT I HAVE GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT EFFICIENCY OF SHARING SUCH SECRETARY WITH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER. OUR CLERICAL STAFF IS HEAVILY OVERBURDENED, DUE TO REQUIREMENTS GENERATED BY THE SECRETARY AND OTHER EXPANDING LOCAL ACTIVITIES. I NEED AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (POSITION 29) DEDICATED FULLY, NOT JUST PARTIALLY, TO THE PRESSING WORKLOAD OF THE EMBASSY.

7. RE PARA 6, I ASSURE YOU THERE IS ENOUGH REAL WORK TO KEEP TWO POLITICAL AND TWO ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS FULLY OCCUPIED. I ASSUME THAT WITH REESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY, WE WILL VERY SOON AGAIN BE ASKED TO DO ALL OF THE REQUIRED CERP AND OTHER REPORTS THAT WE WERE RELIEVED OF IN USINT CONFIGURATION. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL WORK IS ALREADY OUT OF HAND.

8. NOTE YOU SAY NOTHING ABOUT PROPOSED DOD COMPLEMENT. THIS IS GOING TO BE IMPORTANT. HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BRIGADIER GENERAL GUAY IS BEING SENT HERE AS DAO AT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST. I SUSPECT THAT WITH A BRIGADIER GENERAL HERE, THE MODEST DOD COMPLEMENT I PROPOSED WILL BE REGARDED AS INADEQUATE. ARE WE GOING TO HOLD THE LINE ON THIS ONE? IF NOT, THE FLOODGATES ARE OPENED AND I THINK WE WILL FIND USIA, AGRICULTURE, AID AND OTHERS PRESSING TO SEND PEOPLE BACK IN. SHOULD THIS TRANSPIRE, OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BURDEN IS COMPOUNDED. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU HAVE ON THIS MATTER.

9. AGAIN, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. WILL COMMENT
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SEPARATELY ON ALEXANDRIA.
EILTS

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NNN

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